

## ANIMALS IN THE IRAQI TURKMEN PROVERBS

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### ABSTRACT

The study is in fact a collection of the proverbs used by proverbs of the Iraqi Turkmen's which contain the names of some of the insects . the animals mentioned in the proverbs grouped together here seem to be the animals that existed in the environment of the Turkmen's, whether it be their home, his farm or where he traveled .

Since those animals have certain characteristics such as patience, friendship, love or treason, the Turkmens seem to have tried & express those characteristics of animals by proverbs used by humans aiming at applying them & humans in an indirect and mostly metaphorical way. it is necessary & observe that some of the animals are mentioned more than others due to the fact that those animals like the “ dog ”, “ sheep ”, “ donkey”, “ camel ”, “ horse ” ...etc.

Man in his travels and movements and / or they live in his environment and they he depends on them for his living like the whale monkey, giraffe

Some of the animals are either rarely mentioned at all turtle ... etc. the reason is that either there animals do not have characteristics similar & there which the humans have or because they do not exist in turkman environment.

It is also important to pay attention & the literary value of these proverbs since they are expressed in figurative way and sometimes these sayings are rhymed and contain assonance or resonance, and other figures of speech in addition & their social value as saying that contain wise words.

**Key Words :** Proverbs, Turkmen, Iraqi.

The Proverbs of the Iraqi Turkmans , as is the case with the other nations of the world , express the implications of social , economic and psychological life of the people. These proverbs express in the best way

most of the events that have taken place and continue to take place in detail in the everyday life of the people. Mostly, these proverbs are cited or uttered in brief and simple expressions in such a way that makes them easy to memorize and use generation after generation. If we look at the proverbs of Iraqi Turkmans we find that they have expressed people's feelings of happiness and sadness besides their life experiences. One can see that these proverbs are expressions of human characteristics like love, hatred, bravery, generosity, cooperation and so on in addition to expressing the relations of the human beings with one another wherever they be. The present paper deals with the use of various animal (and some insect) names that existed in the environment of the Turkmans since the early days of history, whether that be in his home, or farm or wherever he travelled. And since humans have always been in contact with these animals and since each kind of those animals have characteristics which may have their counterparts in humans like patience, treason, love or betrayal, human beings have tried to express those characteristic of animals by proverbs that are used by humans to apply those characteristics on humans although that has been mostly in an indirect or metaphorical way. It is important to notice that the proverbs most frequent used in our everyday life and which are most effective and expressive among the Turkmen proverbs are those in which one species of animals is used.

Just for example we mention some of those proverbs which are well-known among the Turkmans:

– *Attan iner eşeğe miner (biner)*. Which means:  
He gets down a horse and gets on a donkey.

– *Aslan ağzından av alınmaz* .  
No prey can be taken out of the mouth of the lion.

– *İki kuşu bir taştan (taşla) vurdu*.  
He hit two birds by one stone.

– *Balık suda mamele (alış veriş) edilmez* .  
Bargaining over the fish cannot be done while the fish is inside the water

– *Deve öz (kendi) kanburunu görmez*.

The camel cannot see its own hunchback.

– *Serçe nedi (nedir) şorbası (çorbası) ne olsun?*

What is (the worth of) a sparrow and what is (the worth of) its soup?

– *Tavuk ölü(r) gözü küllükte kalı(r).*

The hen dies but its eyes remain on the garbage.

– *Kurttan (kurtla) yer (yiyer), koyunla şivan eder.*

He eats with the wolf but weeps with the sheep.

– *Bülbül besledim karga çıktı.*

I raised a nightingale but it turned out a crow.

– *Hara (nere) gittim balık başı arpa ekmeği.*

Wherever I went I could not find but fish head and barley bread.

Anyhow, we can notice that in any of the Turkmen proverbs the names of most of the animals that exist in the areas (locations) in which the Turkmen live have been used. However certain animals have been used more than others like the dog, the wolf, the donkey, the camel, the horse, the sheep and others. It seems that the reason behind the frequent use of these animals more than the other ones in the proverbs is that those animals have since the old time accompanied the humans in their travels, and have lived with them in their environment besides being a source of living and comfort and a means of transportation and carrier of luggage in their movement from place to place. Some other animals have been a source of danger and annoyance for humans and their pets and domestic animals. It is worth mentioning that some of the animals are rarely used or mentioned in the Iraqi Turkmen proverbs like the pig, the deer, the peacock, and the tiger; whereas there are some other animals which have not been mentioned in Turkmen proverbs like the monkey, the giraffe and the turtle. The reason behind the rarity of using or not mentioning some species of animals (or insects) in Turkmen proverbs is because they do not have characteristics and features similar to those of the humans or because those animals do not exist in the areas where Turkoman live. Any scrutinizing view at the Turkmen proverbs that are fixed in the existing references mentioned at the end of the study show that about (2000) two thousand proverbs are fixed in the references the proverbs that include the names of animals are (523). It

means that more than a quarter of the total number of the Turkmen proverbs include the names of animals. It is seen that (64) different species of animals and insects are used in these proverbs. Definitely, the more proverbs are discovered by the researcher, the larger number of the species will be. The following is an index of the species of animals used in Turkmen proverbs arranged according to the frequency of each species we start with the species that are used and repeated more than others and then we move to the types/species that are used less than others with an example for each type. It should be noticed that some species of animals' name equals the number of some other species. There are many proverbs in which two or even three species of animals are mentioned in one proverb. These will be mentioned later:

1. The dog (köpek): it is repeated in (59) proverbs.  
*e.g köpek sümükten (kemikten) kaçmaz.*  
A dog does not run away from the bone.
2. The wolf (kurt): it is mentioned in (44) proverbs.  
*e.g kurttan korkan çoban olmaz.*  
He who is afraid of the wolf will not be a shepherd.
3. The donkey (eşek): it is mentioned in (38) proverbs.  
*e.g Eşeğe gücü yetmiri (yetmiyor) palanı taptırır (dövüyor).*  
He has not the ability to hit the donkey, so he hits the saddle.
4. The camel (deve): it is mentioned in (37) proverbs.  
*e.g Deveden düşüp (düşmüş) hophoptan düşürü (düşüyor).*  
He has fallen from the camel's back but he has not given up his arrogance.
5. The horse (at): it is mentioned in (36) proverbs.  
*e.g At dişinden tanili(r), igit (yiğit) işinden.*  
The horse is known through its teeth and the hero is known through his deed.
6. The snake (yılan): it is mentioned in (36) proverbs.  
*e.g Hoş sözle ilan (yılan) delikten çıkar.*  
With nice words the snake can be taken out of its hole.
7. The bird (kuş): it is mentioned in (31) proverbs.  
*e.g Gafil kuşun avcısı çok olur.*  
The hunters of the unwary bird abound.
8. The sheep (koyun): it is mentioned in (26) proverbs.  
*e.g Koyun görmemişseğ (sek), kiyagini (tersini) görmüşüg (görmüşüz).*  
We might have not seen a sheep but we have seen its excrement.
9. The hen (tavuk): it is mentioned in (20) proverbs.  
*e.g Bugünün tavuğu yarının kazınan (kazından) iyidi(r).*

- Today's hen is better than tomorrow's goose.
10. The lion (aslan): it is mentioned in (15) proverbs.  
*e.g Aslan tavunna (tavundan, gücünden) düşmez.*  
 The lion does not fall from its severity (might).
11. The cat (pisik /kedi): it is mentioned in (15) proverbs.  
*e.g Mavildayan pisik (kedi) sıçan tutmaz.*  
 The miaowing cat cannot catch a mouse.
12. The fish (balık): it is mentioned in (13) proverbs.  
*e.g Baliğ (balık) çukur (derin) su ahtarı (arar).*  
 A fish searches for the deep water.
13. The jackal (çakal): it is mentioned in (12) proverbs.  
*e.g Çakal var (var) baş kupardı (koparır) kurdun adı yamandı(r).*  
 There are jackals that pull off heads but it is the wolves that are notorious.
14. The goat (keçi): it is mentioned in (12) proverbs.  
*e.g Geçi (keçi) can vayında kasap pim/et vayında.*  
 The goat is concerned about its life whereas the butcher's concern is its meat/ghee.
15. The crow (karga): it is mentioned in (11) proverbs.  
*e.g Karga besledim gözüm çıkarttı.*  
 I raised a crow then it pulled/gored out my eyes.
16. The bear (ayı): it is mentioned in (10) proverbs.  
*e.g Ac ayı oynamaz.*  
 The hungry bear won't dance.
17. The cow (inek) : it is mentioned in (10) proverbs.  
*e.g İten (yiten) ineğe herkes sahip (sahip) çıkar.*  
 The lost cow is claimed by every one.
18. The cock (horoz) : it is mentioned in (9) proverbs.  
*e.g Horoz baynamasa da sabah olu(r).*  
 Morning starts even if the cock does not crow.
19. The fly (çibin, sinek): it is mentioned in (8) proverbs.  
*e.g Çibin (sinek) küçüktü(r) ama mide bulantırı(r).*  
 The fly is small but it makes one sick.
20. The nightingale (bülbül) : it is mentioned in (8) proverbs.  
*e.g İki bülbül bir dala konmaz.*  
 Two nightingales do not sit on one bough.
21. The ant (karınca): it is mentioned in (8) proverbs.  
*e.g Karıncaya Allah gazeb etsa kanat veri(r).*  
 If God wants to punish the ant he gives it wings.
22. The fox (tilki): it is mentioned in (7) proverbs.  
*e.g Tülkü (tilki) deliğe girmez kuyruğunda da bir süpürge bağlar.*

The fox cannot enter its whole and then it fixes a sweeper in its tail.

23. The pig (donguz/domuz): it is mentioned in (7) proverbs.  
*e.g Dongozdan (domuzdan) bir tük (tüy) kopsun gene kardı(r).*  
 Evin if a hair is taken from the pig it is a gain.
24. The greyhound (tazı): it is mentioned in (7) proverbs.  
*e.g Tazısız ava çıkan tavşansız eve döner.*  
 He who goes hunting without a greyhound, comes back home without a rabbit.
25. The bull (sığır/öküz): it is mentioned in (6) proverbs.  
*e.g Sığır kasaphaneye ulaştıktan sonra bıçak hazırđı(r).*  
 By the arrival of the bull in the slaughter house the knife is ready (to slay).
26. The mouse (sıçan/fare): it is mentioned in (6) proverbs.  
*e.g Sıçan çıktığı deliđi tanır.*  
 The mouse well knows the hole from which it has come out.
27. The owl (baykuş): it is mentioned in (6) proverbs.  
*e.g Allah baykuşun rızkını ayađına gönderi(r).*  
 God sends the owl its food.
28. The bee (arı): it is mentioned in (5) proverbs.  
*e.g Arı bal alacađ (alacak) çiçeđi tanır.*  
 The bee knows the flower from which it takes the honey.
29. The goose (kaz): it is mentioned in (5) proverbs.  
*e.g Tavuk kaz yumurtası doğmaz.*  
 The hen cannot lay eggs of goose.
30. The dog (it): it is mentioned in (5) proverbs.  
*e.g Kervan yürür it hürür.*  
 The convoy continues to move while the dog howls.
31. The mule (katır): it is mentioned in (4) proverbs.  
*e.g Deve ırađına, katır tırnađına bakar.*  
 The camel looks far , whereas the mule looks at its nails.
32. The lamb (kuzu): it is mentioned in (4) proverbs.  
*e.g Koyun öz kuzusunu basmaz.*  
 The sheep does not walk over its own lamb.
33. The sparrow (serçe): it is mentioned in (4) proverbs.  
*e.g Yüz serçe bir kazan doldurmaz.*  
 A hundred sparrows do not fill a cauldron.
34. The rabbit (tavşan): it is mentioned in (4) proverbs.  
*e.g Her yerin tavşanını o yerin tazısı tutar.*  
 The rabbits of each land are caught by its hunting dogs.
35. The animal (hayvan): it is mentioned in (4) proverbs.  
*e.g Hayvan hayvanı okşar, insan insanı.*

- An animal fondles an animal and a human fondles a human.
36. The deer (ceyran/ceylan): it is mentioned in (3) proverbs.  
*e.g Ceyran kaç, tazi geldi.*  
 O deer run away, the hunting dog has come.
37. The horse (beygir): it is mentioned in (3) proverbs.  
*e.g Hammaw'ın kör beygiri kimin (gibi) ahır getirip (getirmiş).*  
 Like the blind horse of Hammaw he has succeeded at the end.
38. The flock (sürü): it is mentioned in (3) proverbs.  
*e.g Sürüden ayrılan koyunu kurt kapar.*  
 The sheep that goes out of the flock is caught by the wolf.
39. The swallow (kallankuş/ kırlangıç): it is mentioned in (3) proverbs.  
*e.g Kırlangıçın zararını biber ekennen (ekenden) sor.*  
 Ask about the harm of the swallow from the person who raises pepper.
40. The frog (kolbaka/kurbağa): it is mentioned in (3) proverbs.  
*e.g Arka su gelmeyince kolbakanın canı çıkar.*  
 If the water does not come to the river the frog will die.
41. The worm (kurt): it is mentioned in (3) proverbs.  
*e.g Ağacı kurt, insanı dert yer.*  
 The tree is eaten by worm, and man diminishes (is diminishes) eaten by sorrow.
42. The chick (cüce/civciv): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.  
*e.g. Her yumurtadan cüce (civciv) çıkmaz .*  
 Not all the eggs will proceder chicks.
43. The grasshopper (çervirke/çekirge) : it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.  
*e.g Bir uçtuv (uçtun) çervirke, iki uçtuv çervirke, ahrında (sonunda) düştüv çervirke.*  
 O, grasshopper, you flew once and flew twice, and at last you fell.
44. The scorpion (akrep): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.  
*e.g. Akrep balasını (Yauvrusunu) Karnında besler.*  
 The scorpion breeds it kids inside its belly.
45. The ram (koç) : it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.  
*e.g. Kuyunumuz varsa koçumuz da var .*  
 If we have sheep , we have rams too.
46. The calf (bızav/buzağı): it is mentýoned in (2) proverbs .  
*e.g. Güz bızavı (buzağı) kimin (gibi) he yisen yatisan .*  
 Like the autumn calf you only eat and sleep .
47. The peacock (tavus): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs .  
*e.g. Tavuz şişer (kendini kabartır) ayağına bakar fis olur (kabarklığı gider)*  
 The peacock pumps itself but when it looks at its feet it returns to its normal condition .
48. The hedgehog (kipri/kipri): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs .

*e.g. Kipri diyer balamnan (yavurumdan) yumşak yoktu(r).*

The hedgehog says no one is smoother than my baby.

49. The tiger (kaplan): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.

*e.g. Darda (sık durumda) kalan pisik (kedi) kaplana döner .*

The cat which is cornered turns to tiger .

50. The elephant (fil): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.

*e.g. Deveden büyük fil var .*

There is an animal bigger than the camel ; it is the elephant.

51. The eagle (şahin ): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.

*e.g. Kargazın (akabanın) ne haddi var şahinin yerin ala.*

The vulture has not the ability to replace the eagle.

52. The falcon (baz): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.

*e.g. Baz bazdan (bazla), kaz kazdan (kazla), keçel (kel) tavuk, topal horozdan (horozla).*

The falcon with the falcon, the goose with the goose, the bald hen with the lame cock .

53. The kids (oğlağ/oğlak ): it is mentioned in (2) proverbs.

*e.g. Kıştan çıktı oğlağım kış götüne parmağım .*

My kids survived the winter, so to hell with winter .

54. The lark (hacılaklak/leylek ): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.

*e.g. Kallankuç (kırlangıç) hacılaklakı (leyleki) aldatır (aldatıyor).*

The swallow is deceiving the lark!

55. The small/babydog (mındı): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.

*e.g. Köpeği gül ağacına bağlırı (bağlıyor) adını mındı koyuyor*

He is tying the dog to a flower tree calling it a puppy.

56. The mare (kısarak): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.

*e.g. Kısrağı genç gözüyden (gözüyle), kızı ihtiyar gözüyle al .*

Choose a horse with a young man's eyes and a girl with an old man's eyes.

57. The donkey (koduğ/eşeğin yavrusu): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.

*e.g. Bahar koduğu kimin oynaklırı (zıplıyor).*

He is dancing and jumping like the young donkey of spring time .

58. The Duck (sona/ördek): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.

*e.g. Sona kimin sudan çıkmaz .*

Like a duck he won't get out of water .

59. The Ox (öküz): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.

*e.g. Eken öküz, biçen öküz, harmana gelende hoha.*

The ox plants, the ox reaps but when it comes to the harvest it is neglected.

60. The bat (köryarasa, yarasa): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.

e.g. *Göz açmamış kör yarasa balasına (yavrusuna) benziri (benziyor)*  
He looks like the close eyed baby of a bat .

61. The water buffalo ( *gamiş* , *manda*): it is mentioned in(1) proverb.  
e.g. *Ne gamış (manda) sağmışam ne deve kırkılmışam.*  
I have neither milked a water buffalo nor cut the hair of a camel .
62. The chick (*ferig/küçük tavuk* ): it is mentioned in(1)proverb.  
e.g. *Bizim horozdan (horozla ) siziv (sizing) ferigi (küçük tavuk) aşınadı(r).* Our cock and your hen are in love.
63. The monster (*canavar*): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.  
e.g. *Üz (yüz) verilen canavar deęi (l).*  
He is not the type of monster that can be welcome .
- 64 . The fiend, demon (*dev*): it is mentioned in (1) proverb.  
e.g. *Ev derdi, dev derdi.*  
The concerns of home equal the concerns of the fiend.

Below is a list of proverbs in which two or more types of animals are mentioned.

A. The proverbs that contain the names of two types of animals :

1. *Ağ (Ak) koyunun kara kuzusu olu (r).*  
The white sheep may give birth to a black lamb.
2. *Eldeki köpek çemdeki aslandan iyidi(r).*  
A dog at hand is better than a lion in the jungle.
3. *Pisiğın (kedinin) gözü sıçan (fare) deliđindedi(r).*  
The eye of the cat is on the hole of the mouse.
4. *Tavuk kaz yumurtası doğmaz.*  
The hen cannot lay eggs of the goose.
5. *Kurt kırdı, çakal yedi.*  
The wolf killed (the prey) but the fox ate it.

B. The proverbs that contain the names of three types of animals :

1. *Attan (atla) eşek nallandı, kolbaka (kurbaęa) kıcıını (ayađını) kaldırdı.*  
The horse and donkey were horseshoed, the frog raised its leg.
2. *At teper, katır teper, ara yerde eşek ölü(r).*  
The horse kicks , the mule kicks and in the middle the donkey dies (is killed).

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